

**Minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee 'FUTURE BRUTON' meeting,
Tuesday 22nd April 2025, Bruton Community Hall**

Present: Cllrs Anderton, Coulter (Chair), Fradley, Hood and Jones

In the Chair: Cllr Coulter.

Officers present: Deputy Clerk.

MINUTES

SP24/28: Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85(1)).

Apologies have been received from Brian Mullis, and Cllrs Bateman and Robinson.

It was RESOLVED [5-0-0] [for-against-abstain] to accept and approve the apologies and the reasons submitted.

SP24/29: Declarations of interest

Members to declare any interests, including disclosable pecuniary interests (DPI) they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any written requests from members for dispensations that accord with the Localism Act 2011 s33 (b-e) (This does not preclude any later declaration).

None declared.

SP24/30: Minutes from the last meeting.

To agree the minutes from the last meeting on 18th February 2025 as a true and accurate record.

It was RESOLVED [5-0-0] to accept the minutes of the meeting on 22nd April 2025 as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

SP24/31: Planning Policy Review.

To discuss a short report submitted by the Town Clerk regarding the review of Bruton Town Council Planning Policy, and to consider whether to include this review as part of the Town Plan review process.

Members discussed the relationship between Planning Policy, the Town Plan, and the emerging *One Planet* Action Plan for Bruton 2025 which was drawn up by the Town Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group. It was agreed that although there are differences between these three interlinked initiatives, a coordinated approach would benefit them all and produce more coherent results. Members also noted that Somerset Council's emerging Local Plan is due to go out for consultation in 2026.

It was RESOLVED [5-0-0] to recommend that work on the Town Council's Planning Policy, the Town Plan, and the *One Planet* Action Plan for Bruton be coordinated, and that those involved should take account of the emerging Local Plan.

SP24/32: Bruton Town Plan.

To receive an update regarding the preparations to review the Town Plan. To discuss and decide upon next actions.

It was noted that on 14th March 2025 a working group met to discuss arrangements for a new Town Plan. It was agreed that the group would meet again on 25th April to discuss concrete proposals.

SP24/33: Strategic Plan: Appearance of the Town.

To discuss any progress made with the proposed quarterly audit of streets and public places.

Members agreed that they would benefit from a demonstration or a hands-on workshop on the use of the *Civicy* asset management app.

Members requested the Town Clerk to prepare a short (one page) written briefing on the possible costs and benefits of employing a part-time Town Ranger, possibly in concert with neighbouring Town and Parish Councils. This would help the Committee assess whether such an approach might be a viable and cost-effective way of maintaining and improving the appearance of the Town.

SP24/34: Strategic Plan: Bruton Play Areas

To receive a short report from the Town Clerk summarising the actions regarding S106 funding, as discussed at the last Strategic Planning Committee meeting. To discuss and decide upon next actions.

Members discussed the implications for S106 funding of proposed housing developments on the east side of Bruton. They expressed some frustration that neither the developers nor the Planning Authority seemed to recognise that coordinating their proposals would help realise the benefits of scale, thereby promoting the common good.

It was RESOLVED [5-0-0] to recommend that Somerset Council's Section 106 Officer be asked to promote a coordinated approach to the provision of equipped play space on the east side of Bruton by encouraging the promoters of the proposed residential developments off the Frome and Brewham Roads to work together and share resources.

SP24/35: Strategic Plan: Safe and Active Travel (walking and cycling).

To receive an update on any progress with safe and active travel aspirations (for example at County Fields) and to discuss any next steps.

There has been no recent progress to report.

SP24/36: Flood/Resilience Action Plan.

Members expressed their gratitude to Cllr Dunn who had agreed to consider taking on the role of Flood Warden.

SP24/37: Date of next meeting.

Tuesday 15th July 2025, 7.30pm (to be confirmed), to be held in the Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.11pm.

END OF MINUTES